

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : J. R. Bonnell

Serial No. : 10/614,649

Filed : July 7, 2003

For : Healthcare Cash Management Accounting System

Examiner : James A. Kramer

Art Unit : 3627

Rule 131 Declaration of Luis Castillo

I, Luis Castillo, declare as follows:

1. I am employed as a Senior Vice President at Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc.

2. In December 2000, I was the Director in charge of all Legacy Financial Systems and was the Patent Manager responsible for the Legacy Financial Systems Division.

3. As Patent Manager I was responsible for meeting with Inventors to determine if an invention should be further developed and determine if patent protection should be sought for the invention.

4. On or about February 2001, I met with Joanne Bonnell who is the inventor on the subject patent application. During this meeting Joanne Bonnell presented the idea which became the subject of the claimed invention. Specifically, Joanne Bonnell explained an application enhancement to a product line. The application enhancement was presented as a device such as an electronic cash register having specific processors programmed with complex functions to facilitate the full method of collecting payments,

balancing cash, accounting for these transactions and reporting for a single or multi-entity healthcare facility. Jonnane Bonnell described the operation of the claimed system by analogy using a cash register in retail setting. However, unlike the retail cash register, a healthcare facility is entirely different and receives revenue streams from within the healthcare facility and other locally and remotely located associated facilities. Department keys on a cash register programmed with, or connected to, processing devices to display the hospitals income categories received from the various insurance payers (e.g., Medicare, the Blues, HMO's), bad debt agency payments, patient payments, etc.. As the system receives notification of a transaction, electronic message receipts are produced for use during the daily cash settlement process where reconciliation between the cash register reports, receipts produced from the register and the actual currency need to balance. The claimed system assures that daily cash transactions are balanced and the money is prepared for deposit into an appropriate financial bank account.

Additionally, and unlike a retail store, healthcare providers receive money that is automatically "direct deposited" from associate entities. This income comprises electronic payments from patients and/or insurance companies, wire transfer monies from other affiliates, lock box deposits and credit card reimbursements etc. The system receives messages that accounts for this data and the corresponding monies to balance with actual cash deposits.

The system allows a Healthcare Organization to account for and produce appropriate journal entries for these transactions. The system is programmed and/or includes programmed processing devices for supporting general ledger account numbers so that the total amount of the cash received from a particular payer is tracked and compiled into a file that is used to generate automatic transactions to post journal entries to the providers GL system (Debit to the cash account and a credit to the general ledger account number associated with the payer/department key). The system supplements a settlement process so that the register is automatically "polled" or initiated to produce an electronic report that displays the individual transactions and totals of each payer/department key. The system stores totals and provide month-end reporting used for a facility's bank statement reconciliation, to determine month end unposted cash figures, which is needed to establish actual account receivables days calculations, and provides an ability to review case mix ratios, and institute cash forecasting.

5. At the conclusion of the meeting described in Point 4 of this declaration, I suggested to Joanne Bonnell, that she continue to work on the invention and that the invention could benefit from patent protection. I instructed Joanne to begin a formal write-up in compliance with our internal patent application procedures.

6. On November 18, 2002, Joanne Bonnell formally submitted the Invention Disclosure Memorandum (Exhibit A of the 7/25 Declaration) and the Invention Disclosure (Exhibit B of the 7/25 Declaration).

7. The Operating Patent Committee requested the legal department to prepare a Provisional patent application, based on the Invention Disclosure which was filed on December 12, 2002 and was given Serial No. 60/432,765.

8. The legal department was requested to prepare a Non-Provisional Patent Application claiming priority from the Provisional Application identified in Point 7 of this Declaration which was filed on July 7, 2003.

18. All statements made herein to my knowledge are true. These statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the Application or any patent issued thereon.

8/24/06
Date

Luis Castillo
Luis Castillo

Exhibit A

Exhibit B

Accomplishments – 1998-1999
Joanne Bonnell

Accomplishments listed for new appraisal year. Education classes are listed separately.

- Century Date Project Continued – Maintenance Testing and Leap Year Maintenance testing
- Responsible for updating the Century Date Information and Planning Guide
- Main contact for the Patient Accounting Century Date question and concerns for the Field Office
- 1999 User Summit Track Leader
- August – Started Medicare Reg Project set up. Initiated Order of DRG tape and scheduled project meetings, tested the new discharge dispositions, other miscellaneous items.
- OAS/GOLD testing of PA screens.
- RPM QA
- HIF Version 14.00 Project – Four Hospitals are on Version 13.
- Reviewed Cash Processing system with Morgan Pape (MLH's)
- Sat in Telephony Meetings and gave input from the Customer perspective.
- User Summit 2000 – Meetings started late August.
- Sat in the London Bridge Demonstration and gave input of product
- On site at Meridian Health System to monitor London Bridge's benefits
- Contract Management OA
- Sat in on Customer Information exchange forum and APC's tele-conference calls
- Put together Critical Window test plans to be implemented during Y2K weekend.
- Critical HIF Month end customer memo – 1st memo sent to customers using the Y2K X-mil job created by SMS to submit electronically to our ICO customers

Education Received (February 1998 to February 1999)

- Starship Factory Experience
- Mainframe Assimilation Program
- VOF Update Class
- Breakthrough Thinking
- Intro to the Internet